

**From:** Mindy Kairis/DC/USEPA/US  
**Sent:** 1/30/2012 4:19:24 PM  
**To:** Earl Salo/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: press on Dimock

Yes, that would be great if you could send it to me too. Thanks!

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**From:** Earl Salo/DC/USEPA/US  
**To:** Mindy Kairis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 01/30/2012 02:09 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: press on Dimock

Do you want me to send you these? They are already sent to Avi.

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**Date:** 01/28/2012 04:16 PM  
**Subject:** press on Dimock

Cecil Rodrigues, Chief  
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DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US, William Early/R3/USEPA/US  
Date: 01/25/2012 10:46 PM  
Subject: WNEP-TV - Cabot Blasts EPA's Decision on Dimock Water (Video)

<http://www.wnep.com/wnep-susq-cabot-blasts-epas-decision-on-dimock-water-20120125,0,6854816.story>

Cabot Blasts EPA's Decision on Dimock Water  
By Renie Workman

4:38 p.m. EST, January 25, 2012

The controversy in Susquehanna County is the on-going dispute over wells residents said are contaminated from natural gas drilling.

Wednesday Cabot Oil and Gas released a scathing statement in response to last week's decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to test 60 wells in the Dimock area and to have water delivered to some homes in Dimock.

All this comes after the state allowed Cabot to stop water deliveries.

Now Cabot is firing back at the EPA.

Cabot is speaking out for the first time since Friday when residents along Carter Road in the Dimock area got a welcome delivery of fresh water.

Last week the federal EPA announced it would temporarily deliver water to several homes in the area as well as test 60 wells to check for water contamination.

Residents claim their water was contaminated by natural gas drilling.

Cabot Oil and Gas had been delivering water until November when the state department of environmental protection declared the water safe and said Cabot no longer had to provide water to residents.

Now Cabot is responding to the EPA's decision to step in, saying in a statement:

"While taking water samples is certainly something EPA does from time to time, Cabot is concerned that this recent action may be more of an attempt to advance a political agenda hostile to shale gas development rather than a principled effort to address environmental concerns in the area."

The Dimock area has been at the forefront of the national debate on natural gas drilling and fracking.

Celebrities have even voiced their support for residents, but Cabot said it has three main concerns with the EPA's decision.

One, the EPA has not presented credible evidence to show new sampling is a wise use of resources after more than 2,000 wells in the area have already been tested and analyzed.

Two, EPA's concerns are inconsistent with state regulators who have determined that Dimock drinking water is safe.

And three, that the EPA's decision is a change in position unsupported by new facts. Cabot claims as recently as December the agency told Dimock residents their water did not pose a health concern.

Cabot also claims that the EPA knows nearly half of all Pennsylvania's water wells do not meet standards and are worse than those in Dimock but that the agency has not done anything to deal with those issues.

Newswatch 16 did try to contact the EPA for comment on Cabot's position but has not yet received a response.

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Date: 01/26/2012 08:52 PM  
Subject: WBNG-TV (Binghamton, NY) - Cabot: EPA Involvement In Dimock Purely Political

Cabot: EPA Involvement In Dimock Purely Political

Originally printed at <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Cabot-EPA-Involvement-In-Dimock-Purely-Political-138166739.html>  
By WBNG News  
January 26, 2012

Dimock Township., PA (WBNG Binghamton) It was a decision based more on politics than science.

That's what Cabot Oil and Gas says was behind a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to collect drinking water

The EPA is now delivering water to some homes along Carter Road in Susquehanna County.

That's after EPA representatives said they found contaminants in the water that are related to natural gas drilling.

Cabot says it has collected 2,000 samples around Susquehanna County, and that homes in the Carter Road area meet EPA water standards.

"We were frustrated with the idea that the EPA came in without looking over the existing science and data, and made a move to institute sampling that we don't believe was necessary based on the sampling we've already done," said Cabot Spokesman George Stark.

Cabot also says it hopes to help the EPA understand the geology of the region, and that it's committed to the residents and acreage in Susquehanna County.

The EPA, however, says they are testing samples based on Cabot's own data.

"Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law," the EPA's Region 3 office said in a statement. "We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern."

The EPA says such testing is "consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out."

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Date: 01/27/2012 07:23 PM  
Subject: Truthout.org (7-27) Fracking Company: EPA Decision to Test Contaminated Wells in Dimock "Undercuts" Obama's Commitment to Natural Gas

<http://www.truth-out.org/fracker-epa-decision-test-contaminated-wells-dimock-undercuts-obamas-commitment-natural-gas/13276868>

## Fracking Company: EPA Decision to Test Contaminated Wells in Dimock "Undercuts" Obama's Commitment to Natural Gas

Friday 27 January 2012

by: Mike Ludwig, Truthout | Report

President Obama proclaimed his support for safely expanding gas and oil drilling on public lands this week, and the announcement received an uncomfortable applause from a fracking company ensnarled in a ongoing controversy over poisoned water wells used by dozens of families in rural Pennsylvania.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced last week its plans to sample and test water from 60 homes near Dimock, Pennsylvania, to determine if residents are "being exposed to hazardous substances." Cabot Oil and Gas, a company that was fined \$120,000 in 2009 for fracking mishaps and contaminating water in the area, sent a letter to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson on Wednesday complaining that the water testing "undercut the president's commitment to this important resource."

Victims of contaminated water have sued Cabot and fought for more than two years for clean water, and, until about two months ago, Cabot was under state orders to deliver fresh water in giant vessels to several of the affected residences. State officials ruled in early December that Cabot could stop making water deliveries, prompting activists, Gasland director Josh Fox and actor Mark Ruffalo to deliver fresh water in a recent media blitz.

There is a moratorium on fracking in the area, but resident Craig Sautner, who leased his gas rights to Cabot a few years ago and has since become an anti-fracking activist, said his well water is still discolored and contaminated. In December, Sautner told Truthout the gritty details of a struggle that has consumed his life.

"I don't want to use that water again," Sautner said about his well, which was first contaminated with methane in 2009. "My daughter said it best. She said, she told my wife after the fact, 'Mom, I don't want to go back on that contaminated well again ... I don't want to get sick again. I don't want to get all these hives and rashes. And besides that, I want to have kids someday.'"

Now the EPA, which is testing water samples as a result of a direct request from residents, is delivering fresh water to the Sautners and a handful of other families.

### Obama Calls for Safe Fracking

In his State of the Union address, President Obama said America should safely expand natural gas drilling and create 600,000 jobs in the process. In a speech in Las Vegas on Thursday, Obama made a vague reference to expanding controversial fracking drilling operations with new federal rules to prevent environmental harm.

"Some of you may not have been following this, but because of new technologies, because we can now access natural gas that we couldn't access before in an economic way, we've got a supply of natural gas under our feet that can last America nearly a hundred years," Obama said.

Obama said drilling must be done carefully, and announced new rules that would require fracking operators drilling on public lands to disclose the chemicals they pump in the ground.

Fracking is short for hydraulic fracturing, a rapidly expanding and largely unregulated - at least at the federal level - natural-gas drilling technique that involves injecting water and chemicals deep underground to break up rock and release natural gas. The practice has been linked to water contamination and earthquakes across the country, and several wells have blown out in recent years.

For some environmentalists, Obama's announcement is a blessing and a curse. Many are opposed to fracking in general, but activists have been fighting for years to force gas companies to disclose the ingredients in fracking liquids, and the new rules proposed by the president could be a signal of more federal regulation to come.

### Cabot Jumps on Obama's Statements

After Obama's State of the Union address, Cabot CEO Dan Dinges wrote to Jackson complaining that the EPA's decision

to determine if Dimock residents are still being exposed to poisonous water sends the wrong message about fracking and could compromise the Obama administration's priorities.

"The president made a strong call to all Americans last night to take advantage of these new opportunities in shale gas development," Dinges wrote. "To prevent uncertainty and take advantage of the new opportunities, in our view, what is needed is an objective approach to dealing with community concerns - something missing in recent EPA actions."

EPA spokesperson Terri White said the agency is just doing its job.

"In his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he is committed to tapping America's natural gas as part of a new era in American energy," White told Truthout in a statement. "He also affirmed our commitment to 'developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk.'"

White said the EPA does not hesitate to take action when Americans' health could be at risk.

"Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law," White said. "We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern."

The EPA decided to test the water wells after reviewing data submitted by state officials, Cabot and Dimock residents. White said the samples collected at the residences will be reviewed under the highest scientific standards, and data provided by Cabot and state officials will be taken into account in the final review, which is due out in about seven weeks.

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Date: 01/27/2012 07:34 PM  
Subject: WBGH-TV (Binghamton) EPA Testing Dimock Water

<http://www.newschannel34.com/news/local/story/EPA-Testing-Dimock-Water/ZERvZeDPh0GdVYuSv6wuGA.csp?autoplay=1>

## EPA Testing Dimock Water

The EPA has completed well water sampling at 11 homes in Dimock this week.

The EPA says it is also bringing in a truckload of water to four families each day. Daily water deliveries will continue until the EPA gets a better idea as to how much water each home needs. These are moves that have stepped on the toes - so to speak - of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot Oil and Gas. Late last year, the DEP agreed with Cabot that the water in Dimock is safe and Cabot could stop delivering water to a group of families who presumably had their wells contaminated by drilling operations.

However, the EPA says it's concerned with some of the results that the DEP and Cabot think are fine, so it's doing more testing. Trish Taylor says, "It's been reviewed for chemical compounds that we know are associated with drilling operations as well as heavy metals and organics in other compounds that we normally would look at to see if there were other potential health risks."

Water deliveries will continue at least for about another five weeks, until test results come back. The EPA is conducting split sampling with the DEP and Cabot as long as the residents agree to it. So far 44 additional homes have agreed to let

the EPA do more testing.

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Date: 01/28/2012 08:01 AM

Subject: Scranton Times-Tribune (1-28) In Dimock, EPA testing draws mixed reaction

In Dimock, EPA testing draws mixed reaction

By LAURA LEGERE

**DIMOCK TWP.** - Two teams of scientists sampling well water from four homes a day are producing a picture of the aquifer under this Susquehanna County town that will help define the impact of natural gas drilling on drinking water.

The water captured in vials and packed in coolers by scientists and contractors for the Environmental Protection Agency since Jan. 23 is the heart of an investigation spurred by concerns that Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.'s Marcellus Shale drilling and hydraulic fracturing tainted water wells.

In a divided village where gas drilling is as earnestly embraced as it is criticized, the controversy over the EPA's fieldwork started before the sampling did. Test results are at least five weeks away.

The study has provoked strong criticism from the industry and its local supporters who accuse the EPA of meddling in what they consider a settled matter or a spectacle conjured by lawyers.

At the same time, the study has earned the grateful support of families, many of whom are suing Cabot, who have used their water warily or not at all since methane tied to drilling first intruded in 2008.

State officials determined faulty Cabot gas wells allowed methane to seep into 18 Dimock water supplies in 2009, but Cabot water tests from last fall raised federal regulators' concern about the potential health threats posed by other contaminants in the water.

The contaminants - some of which are naturally occurring but all of which are associated with natural gas drilling, the EPA said - include arsenic, barium, the plasticizer commonly called DEHP, glycol compounds, manganese, phenol and sodium.

"If we see an immediate threat to public health, we will not hesitate to take steps under the law to protect Americans whose health may be at risk," EPA spokeswoman Terri White said.

Residents who support Cabot's operations sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson this week calling for her to "rein in" the "rogue regional office" in Philadelphia that is leading the investigation based on what they said were "baseless claims" and "hyped-up allegations" of pollutants that occur naturally in the region.

The group, Enough is Enough, created a campaign called "Dimock Proud" with yard signs, a petition drive and a logo: "Where the water IS clean and the people are friendly."

The petition to Ms. Jackson was bundled with an earlier petition signed by more than 400 Susquehanna County residents and sent to the state to ask for Cabot to be able to resume drilling in a 9-square-mile section of Dimock - where EPA is

now testing - that has been off limits to the driller since 2010. The moratorium has continued because the state has not determined that the company's wells have stopped leaking methane.

"The Philadelphia Regional Office's action in enabling this litigation threatens our livelihoods and is destroying our community reputation," the residents wrote to Ms. Jackson. "These actions are an assault on our property rights and basic freedoms."

Cabot CEO Dan Dinges cited President Barack Obama's support for domestic natural gas in his State of the Union address when he also wrote to Ms. Jackson this week. Her agency's actions in Dimock "appear to undercut the President's stated commitment to this important resource," Mr. Dinges wrote.

In another statement released this week, the company said it "is concerned that this recent action may be more of an attempt to advance a political agenda hostile to shale gas development rather than a principled effort to address environmental concerns in the area."

The industry group Energy in Depth posted historical state and federal data on its website showing some of the pollutants that triggered the EPA investigation - manganese and arsenic - occur in the geological formation that is used for groundwater in Dimock. It cited a 2006 U.S. Geological Survey study that found arsenic in 18 of 143 domestic water wells it sampled in Northeast Pennsylvania, although none of the samples taken in Susquehanna or Wyoming counties detected the compound.

The arsenic level that triggered the EPA to truck water to one home in Dimock was nearly four times the federal standard.

The EPA rebuffed Cabot's criticism this week, saying its actions "are guided entirely by science and the law."

"We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern," the agency said. "We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action."

While the Mr. Obama's address made clear his support for domestic natural gas extraction, the agency added, "he also affirmed our commitment to 'developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk.'"

Despite some residents' skepticism of the EPA's actions, the agency has received permission from 55 of the 66 Dimock homes it approached to conduct sampling, spokesman Roy Seneca said Friday. The EPA has not received a final response from 11 of the 66 homes. Its initial goal was to take samples from about 61 homes.

"I'm thrilled the EPA is here," resident Victoria Switzer said Friday as five scientists wearing blue gloves huddled on a mound of melting snow in her backyard where her well water trickled from a spigot.

If the test comes back clear, she said, "I'll be very relieved that our water is safe to use and we can go on living in our home."

The water sampling will also provide key data for the future, she said.

"I'm considering it baseline testing for the next wave when Cabot roars back in here."

Contact the writer: [llegere@timeshamrock.com](mailto:llegere@timeshamrock.com)

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/in-dimock-epa-testing-draws-mixed-reaction-1.1263956#ixzz1kkxdWBvA>

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